

# GAS PIPELINE SAFETY DIVISION NEWSLETTER

February 2007

## TRA GAS PIPELINE SAFETY DIVISION MOVING FORWARD

Happy New Year from the TRA Gas Pipeline Safety Division staff!

Since our last newsletter several changes have taken place within the division. A number of our staff members have gone on to pursue other endeavors. First of all, Vicky Nelson moved one floor to become executive administrative assistant for TRA Director Dr. Eddie Roberson. Vicky worked with us for about 9 years and was a tremendous asset to our division. Brad Williams worked in our division for over 9 years.

*"The only constant is change"*

Real estate, initially a hobby for Brad, has developed into a full time enterprise. Glynn Blanton has taken a new position with the Federal Pipeline and Hazardous Material Safety Administration. His new role as state evaluator will take him to state pipeline safety



Gas Pipeline Safety Div. Staff. L to R: Clift Phillips, Larry Borum, Eric Cherry, & Tom Woosley.

programs across the country to evaluate and recommend improvements to state programs. Glynn reports to Washington, D.C., but has the benefit of maintaining his residence near Nashville. We wish Glynn, Vicky, and Brad the best in their new pursuits.

Through the years markets change, personnel change, and regulations change. The only constant that seems to remain is change itself. The Gas Pipeline Safety staff members are dedicated to adapting to these changes and continue to serve the citizens of our state to the best of our abilities.

The current staff, Larry Borum, Eric Cherry, Clift Phillips and Tom Woosley, are working together to be of service to each operator throughout the state. For 2007, each

inspector will retain the previous year's operator inspection list with the addition of a portion of those previously assigned to Brad in 2006. A listing of operator/inspector assignments for 2007 may be found on the last page of this newsletter. Our contact information is also provided on that same page. If you are unable to contact us in the office feel free to call our cell phones.

The chief position vacancy, formerly held by Glynn, has been posted on the TRA website. If there is anyone interested in becoming the next Chief of the Gas Pipeline Safety Division, information about the job and how to apply appears on the website. Information may be obtained through this web link: <http://www.state.tn.us/tra/employment.htm>.

### Also in this edition:

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Master Meter  
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Excess Flow Valves  
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Sara Kyle, Chairman  
Tennessee Regulatory Authority  
460 James Robertson Pkwy  
Nashville, TN 37243  
Tel: 615-741-2904  
Fax: 615-741-1228  
[www.state.tn.us/tra](http://www.state.tn.us/tra)

For more information, visit our website at [www.state.tn.us/tra](http://www.state.tn.us/tra).

*The mission of the Tennessee Regulatory Authority is to promote the public interest by balancing the interests of utility consumers and providers while facilitating the transition to a more competitive environment.*

## Regulator and Relief Valves

October brought an increased inspection effort on the part of the GPSD staff, who were asked to schedule inspections for four days each week. This additional time in the field allowed inspectors to expand their inspection topics. During specialized inspections focusing on regulators and relief valves and standard inspections, the inspector reviews operator inspection reports to verify that appropriate information is available. One critical area of concern is the information recorded on the relative capacities of regulators and relief valves.

Based on §192.199, §192.201 of Subpart D and §192.743 of Subpart M of the Minimum Federal Safety Standards (MFSS) for code information addressing the design and maintenance of pressure relief and regulating stations, inspectors are responsible for insuring the availability of records verifying the operator has performed calculations or physical tests to determine regulator and relief valve capacities. Therefore, the inspection staff does not normally perform calculations to verify operator-determined capacities. During a recent regulator, relief



*Regulator and relief valve station.*

valve and odorization inspection, the operator raised some questions relative to regulator/relief valve capacity determinations. After researching specifications and operating characteristics of a particular regulator and relief valve installation from the operator's system, the inspector was able to provide the operator with an example of a regulator/relief valve capacity evaluation based on the inspector's interpretation of data and to review this information with the operator during a subsequent inspection.

Since reviewing the initial regulator and relief valve installation, selected inspection reports of additional operators have been reviewed and the resulting information provided. Such exercises do not serve as the operator's

review and calculation for regulator stations in his/her system and such a review is performed for the purpose of refocusing the attention of the operator and inspector on the importance of the regulator and relief valve relationship. Operators' qualified personnel or consultant must continue to perform this task. According to §192.743, after the initial calculations, subsequent calculations need not be made if the annual review documents that parameters have not changed to cause the rated or experimentally determined relieving capacity to be insufficient. Each operator is responsible for insuring that relief valves function as intended and that inspection reports are accurate.



*Master meter*

## Master Meter

Our office has recently received several questions about master meter operators.

The GPSD will be surveying each operator this year to determine if there are any master meter operators on their system. As a reminder, 49 CFR §191.3 defines a master meter System as: a pipeline system for distributing gas within, but not limited to, a definable area, such as a mobile home park,

housing project, or apartment complex, where the operator purchases metered gas from an outside source for resale through a distribution pipeline system. The gas distribution pipeline system supplies the ultimate consumer who either purchases the gas directly through a meter or by other means, such as by rents.

Please start reviewing your system for customers who meet the above definition. If you have questions on this issue please contact your inspector.

## Public Awareness

Public Awareness has been a hot topic for the past several months and this article will explain how evaluations will be handled and discuss several areas of concern that have been identified with the first round of evaluations. First, each gas distribution operator should have already submitted Public Awareness Program plan to the Public Awareness Program Clearinghouse. If you have not done so, please contact our office as soon as possible.

After submitting your plan to the clearinghouse, they will evaluate it and determine if it meets the RP 1162 criteria. The clearinghouse will notify our office upon completion, and if you are lucky (as many of you have already found out) they will send along their findings that deviate from RP 1162. Our office will meet with you to discuss these deviations and identify changes that need to be made to the plan. If changes are made, the operator is

not required to resubmit the Public Awareness Plan to the clearinghouse.

Our office has already received responses from the clearinghouse and has performed associated inspections. During these inspections, a trend of deviations from RP 1162 has become apparent. The following are a few of the most cited deviations:

**1. Have a "Management Statement of Support."**

Management should demonstrate its support through company policy, management participation, and allocation of resources and funding. The program should state management's support measures.

**2. Specifically state the delivery methods for each stakeholder.**

Remove all 'or' statements from the delivery method list. If the delivery methods change, then you can change your plan.

**3. The operator should state the process and procedures for supplemental activity.**

The operator should state when supplemental activity will be performed (i.e. third party damages, pre-construction meetings, known digging on facilities without One-Call Ticket, etc.)

Find more information on public awareness and a link to the RP1162 document at <http://primis.phmsa.dot.gov/comm/PublicEducation.htm>. Each operator should have a copy of RP 1162 and should have used this document to develop Public Awareness Programs.

RP 1162 is vital to developing and understanding your Public Awareness Program.

## Excess Flow Valves

We have been hearing about the possibility of mandatory installation of excess flow valves for a while now. The day has now come. Excess flow valves are now mandatory on all new and renewing services effective June 1, 2008.

Some operators have elected to place excess flow valves on high pressure farm tap services in recent years, thereby minimizing that potential for risk to the public and property. The forthcoming distribution integrity management rule has been delayed to incorporate language addressing this new excess flow valve requirement. The

distribution integrity management rule is still expected toward the middle of 2007. The rule will address managing the risks within gas distribution systems. This will require a good working knowledge of the gas system and each of the components in the gas system, including excess flow valves.

Excess flow valves have now demonstrated a good and reliable track record without false closures. One primary consideration is sizing the excess flow valve correctly for the load the customer will require.

If a customer arbitrarily



elects to install a pool heater, the excess flow valve for the service will most likely need to be upgraded to account for the additional load and thereby prevent the possibility of false closures. The excess flow valve is an additional safety measure, and when used properly may prevent accidents. Small leaks and flows not exceeding the design limits still pose potential threats and will require ongoing vigilance in the operation and maintenance of your gas system. Thank you for your co-operation concerning natural gas pipeline safety.

## Updates & Reminders

Federal form RSPA F7100.1-1 (Annual Report) is due to OPS by March 15. You can file online using the Online Data Entry System link located at [www.ops.dot.gov](http://www.ops.dot.gov). Be sure to send a copy to the TRA Gas Safety office by April 1.

The minimum annual percentage rate for random drug testing remains at 25 percent of covered employees. (Effective Jan. 1 through Dec. 31, 2007.)



## 2007 OPERATOR/INSPECTOR LIST

### Private

Atmos Energy  
Bristol - Borum  
Columbia - Phillips  
Franklin - Woosley  
Greeneville - Borum  
Johnson City - Woosley  
Kingsport - Woosley  
Maryville - Cherry  
Morristown - Cherry  
Murfreesboro - Phillips  
Shelbyville - Woosley  
Union City - Cherry  
Chattanooga - Phillips  
Chattanooga (Clev) -  
Woosley  
Counce - Cherry  
GASCO(Jellico) - Phillips  
GASCO (Byrdstown) -  
Borum  
Hartsville - Phillips  
Nashville Gas - Phillips  
Red Boiling Sprs - Borum

### Municipal

Adamsville - Cherry  
Athens - Woosley  
Athens (Ardmore) -  
Borum  
Bells - Cherry  
Bolivar - Cherry  
Brownsville - Phillips  
Centerville - Woosley  
Clarksville - Woosley  
Clifton - Phillips  
Collinwood - Borum  
Cookeville - Woosley  
Covington - Phillips  
Dickson - Phillips  
Dunlap - Phillips  
Dyersburg - Phillips  
Englewood - Borum  
Etowah - Borum  
Fayetteville - Phillips  
Ft. Campbell - Woosley  
Friendship - Cherry  
Gainesboro - Cherry  
Gallatin - Phillips  
Galloway - Phillips  
Halls - Cherry  
Harriman - Borum  
Henderson - Borum  
Henning - Woosley  
Hohenwald - Woosley  
Humboldt - Woosley  
Jackson - Woosley  
Jamestown - Borum  
Knoxville - Phillips  
Lafayette - Phillips  
Lawrenceburg - Cherry  
Lebanon - Cherry

Martin - Phillips  
Mason - Woosley  
Maury City - Cherry  
Memphis - Woosley  
Monteagle - Cherry  
Mt. Pleasant - Borum  
Munford - Cherry  
Newbern - Borum  
Obion - Borum  
Parsons - Borum  
Pikeville - Borum  
Portland - Cherry  
Pulaski - Borum  
Ridgetop - Woosley  
Ripley - Borum  
Rockwood - Phillips  
Savannah - Phillips  
Selmer - Phillips  
Smyrna - Woosley  
Somerville - Phillips  
South Fulton - Cherry  
Springfield - Borum  
St. Joseph - Borum  
Sweetwater - Woosley  
Trimble - Borum  
Troy - Borum  
Waynesboro - Cherry

### Utility District

Bedford County - Borum  
Citizens Gas - Borum  
Claiborne Co. - Woosley  
Clay Gas - Woosley  
Crockett Public - Borum  
Elk River Public - Borum  
Gibson County - Woosley  
Hardeman/Fayette -  
Woosley  
Hawkins County - Phillips  
Horton Highway - Cherry  
Humphreys Co. - Cherry  
Jefferson-Cocke - Woosley  
Lake County - Borum  
Middle Tennessee Gas  
Crossville - Cherry  
Dayton - Phillips  
McMinnville - Woosley  
Smithville - Phillips  
Sparta - Cherry  
Oak Ridge - Borum  
Paris/Henry Co. - Phillips  
Poplar Grove - Borum  
Powell/Clinch - Cherry  
Powell Valley - Cherry  
Sevier County - Woosley  
Tipton Co., First - Cherry  
Unicoi County - Woosley  
Upper Cumb. - Phillips  
West TN Public - Borum  
Volunteer Energy - Phillips

### Housing Authority

Columbia - Woosley  
Covington - Woosley  
Gallatin - Cherry  
Harriman - Borum  
Hartsville - Cherry  
Huntingdon - Borum  
Jackson - Borum  
Jefferson City - Borum  
Lawrenceburg - Phillips  
Lebanon - Borum  
Livingston - Cherry  
Martin - Phillips  
McKenzie - Cherry  
Memphis - Woosley  
Metro Dev/Hous. -  
Woosley  
Murfreesboro - Borum  
Parsons/Decatur - Phillips  
Portland - Borum  
South Pittsburg - Cherry  
Tullahoma - Cherry  
Union City - Phillips

### Apartment

Alexian Village - Woosley  
Avalon West - Cherry  
Georgetown - Cherry  
Green Hills Terr. - Borum  
Johnson Bible - Cherry  
Kirby Pines Est. - Woosley  
Maple Village - Phillips  
Pentad (Crestview) -  
Phillips Pentad (Hill.&  
Pkwy)- Phillips  
Sequoyah Sq. - Phillips  
Rose Garden - Borum

### Mobile Home Park

Fern Creek - Borum  
Old Trinity - Cherry

### Intrastate Pipeline

Clear Creek - Phillips  
Coalfield - Cherry  
COPCO - Woosley  
ESG Pipeline - Woosley  
Evan Energy - Borum  
Fentress Gas - Cherry  
TENGASCO - Cherry  
Titan Energy - Borum

### Direct Sale

AcuPowder - Phillips  
AFG (Church Hill) - Woosley  
AFG (Kingsport) - Cherry  
AOC - Woosley  
ALCOA - Woosley

Bowater - Woosley  
Dept. of Energy - Borum  
Eastman Chem. - Woosley  
General Shale - Cherry  
Holston (Kingsport) - Cherry  
Holston (Mt. Carmel) -  
Phillips  
MD Recycling - Woosley  
Occidental Chem. - Borum  
Olin Corporation - Phillips  
Smelter - Phillips  
Solutia - Phillips  
Tenneco Pkg. - Cherry  
TN Air Ntl. Gd. - Cherry  
TVA (Gallatin) - Woosley  
TVA (New J'ville) - Borum  
TVA (Lagoon Crk) -  
Woosley  
Turney Center - Borum  
UCAR - Borum  
Weyerhaeuser - Phillips

### ING

Nashville (Bordeaux) -  
Phillips  
Memphis (Arl.) - Borum  
Memphis (Caple.) -  
Woosley

### **EMERGENCY CONTACT LIST**

#### **TRA GAS PIPELINE SAFETY**

(800) 342-8359 or  
615-741-2844  
fax 615-741-1228

**Larry Borum, Gas Safety Eng.**  
Ext. 182  
Cell: 615-476-4691  
Home: 615-227-7341

**Eric Cherry, Gas Safety Eng.**  
Ext. 133  
Cell: 615-476-4728  
Home: 615-952-5853

**Clifton Phillips, Gas Safety Eng.**  
Ext. 187  
Cell: 615-476-4716  
Pers. Cell: 615-618-0827

**Tom Woosley, Gas Safety  
Trainer/Eng.**  
Ext. 181  
Cell: 615-476-4693  
Home: 615-230-7557

**Washington, D.C.  
Response Center**  
(800) 424-8802